

Eades, Cassaundra

From: Dickerson, Tom
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Eades, Cassaundra; Mims, Kathy
Subject: FW: new CMS control

Here is one that can be closed without response...

Markey 15-001-2422.pdf

Tom Dickerson
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-3638

From: Vaught, Laura
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 1:34 PM
To: Distefano, Nichole
Cc: Dickerson, Tom; Eisenberg, Mindy
Subject: Re: new CMS control

Agreed. I think what happened (knowing that they use same system my previous office did) is that they sent out a mass mailer on CWR and just happened to have us in their database coded for water.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 1:31 PM, Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov> wrote:

Sending to LV in case she is aware already. But this looks to me like a constituent response letter and that someone accidentally put our address on. I don't think it needs a response.

One of us can call Markey's office to make them aware in case they have a computer glitch they need to address.

Nichole Distefano
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-5200
Distefano.Nichole@epa.gov

From: Dickerson, Tom
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 1:20 PM
To: Eisenberg, Mindy
Cc: Distefano, Nichole
Subject: RE: new CMS control

Mindy,

I'm not sure how this came in, or how it got assigned to OW, but it doesn't look like a letter that needs a response.

Nichole, have you seen this one?

Tom Dickerson
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-3638

From: Eisenberg, Mindy
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Dickerson, Tom
Subject: new CMS control

Hi Tom,
My division was assigned a new control from Sen. Markey that references the clean water rule, but some other issues as well. Is this something that I can send back your way?

Thanks!
Mindy

Mindy Eisenberg
Associate Director, Wetlands Division
Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, mailcode 4502T
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 566-1290
eisenberg.mindy@epa.gov

<Markey 15-001-2422.pdf>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Deborah L. James
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary James, Secretary Burwell, and Administrator McCarthy:

We write to express growing concern regarding the inadequate response to the presence of perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in the Haven Well in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In April 2014, the Air Force—in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the City of Portsmouth—discovered these chemicals in the well water. A study published in 2013 by researchers at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia associated PFC exposure with certain types of cancer. The C8 Science Panel has made similar associations.

The presence of the chemicals in the well in Portsmouth is likely due to the Air Force's use of fire-fighting foam at Pease Air National Guard Base. Those at risk of exposure have requested tests to check their blood serum levels of PFCs. Within the last six years, the Center for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) performed such blood tests on Alabama residents exposed to PFCs after a manufacturer discharged chemicals into a wastewater treatment plant. Despite requests from Portsmouth residents and close attention from our staffs, the Air Force has yet to collaborate effectively with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and the City of Portsmouth to ensure that all residents desiring blood tests can have them at no expense to themselves or the State of New Hampshire. Further, the Air Force has not taken affirmative steps to identify and notify the service members and civilians who may have been exposed while stationed at Pease Air Base.

In meetings with our staffs, representatives from ATSDR and the Air Force say that testing is premature and unneeded. First, they claim that neither the EPA nor the scientific community

have established cutoff levels for PFC levels in humans. Second, they insist that until the highest risk population group is identified, such testing would not produce meaningful results. Finally, they say PFCs in an individual's blood does not *per se* correlate to a specific source of exposure.

These arguments are not compelling. While cutoff levels do not exist today, they could likely exist in the future. Immediate testing is important because PFCs do not stay in the blood indefinitely. Unless those who were exposed are tested now, their blood PFC levels cannot be compared against a cutoff level that will be developed in the future. Additionally, broad testing of blood levels in an at-risk population will assist in interpreting data from well testing and aquifer modelling. Awaiting the results of one test before conducting the second only allows more time to pass between the likely exposure and the test results, reducing the credibility of the data.

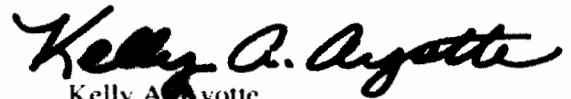
Therefore, we call on the Air Force, the EPA, and Health and Human Services to provide funding for blood tests for all individuals who were exposed to PFCs from the Haven Well. If additional authorities are required to facilitate such funding, please notify our offices immediately. Further, we call on the Air Force to immediately identify and contact all those who are likely to have been exposed to these chemicals, including individuals stationed at Pease after the date the contamination was introduced into the water.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator



Kelly A. Ayotte
U.S. Senator

15-000-9673



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

August 3, 2015

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kelly A. Ayotte
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen and Senator Ayotte:

On behalf of Administrator Gina McCarthy, thank you for your letter expressing your concerns and those of the Seacoast community that have arisen since the discovery of perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) in water supply wells located on the Pease International Tradeport. As you are aware, one of the three Tradeport supply wells was shut down on May 12, 2014 as a result of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) being detected above EPA's provisional health advisory (PHA). EPA has currently established PHAs for two PFCs, PFOS and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), both of which have been detected in numerous ground water samples on the Tradeport. I want to assure you that my office is working with the many agencies involved to address these important concerns.

EPA, with its state cleanup partner the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), has been working closely with the City of Portsmouth and Pease Development Authority to address both the immediate and longer term contamination issues created by the U.S. Air Force's use of PFC-containing firefighting foams at the former active military installation. EPA's focus is to work with the Air Force and NH DES to determine the nature and extent of the contamination and the options to address this contamination in a timely way.

As you are aware, a prime community concern is the potential for health problems associated with past exposure to these chemicals by anyone who consumed water from the former base's supply wells. A blood serum testing program was initiated by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services at the urging of the local community.

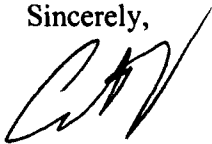
Since receipt of your letter, I understand that your efforts to secure additional funding from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has resulted in its commitment to fund blood tests for up to 500 individuals potentially exposed to PFCs from contaminated base ground

water. To date, 471 persons have submitted blood samples for PFC testing. I would like to make you aware of funding that has been committed by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and EPA to support the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to address the community's PFC health concerns. ATSDR and EPA provides funding to the Region I Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) located at Childrens Hospital in Boston, MA. Dr. Alan Wolf, Director of the Environmental Medicine Program at Boston Children's Hospital, is a member of the Region I PEHSU and is available to assist DHHS in providing information about PFCs and health to local community members whose children may have consumed PFC-contaminated Tradeport water. Dr. Wolf recently attended a public meeting on July 15, 2015 with the City of Portsmouth's Community Advisory Board to answer questions from the public. While EPA is not able to fund the testing of blood serum PFC samples under our current authorities, it is my hope that support of the blood testing program through EPA's funding of the Region I PEHSU addresses some of your concerns.

As you are also aware, EPA issued a Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) administrative order to the Air Force on July 8, 2015 related to the PFC contamination discovered on the Tradeport. The order compels the Air Force to identify all areas where PFC-containing firefighting foams were released to the environment on the Tradeport and to commence timely restoration of the Pease aquifer. To accomplish timely aquifer restoration, the order includes an Air Force requirement to design, construct, and operate a ground water treatment plant for the shuttered supply well. The Air Force requested and was granted a conference with EPA on July 23, 2015 to discuss the Pease administrative order. It was agreed that minor modifications to the order will be made. EPA anticipates that the revised order with a new effective date will be issued shortly. We will keep your office informed on the status of the order as things evolve.

Again, my office will be focusing on the contamination and the Air Force's future compliance with the SDWA order. I would like to sincerely thank you for your continued interest in these emerging issues at the Pease Tradeport.

Sincerely,



H. Curtis Spalding
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. Benjamin Chan, NH DHHS
Mike Wimsatt, NH DES
Tara Somers, ATSDR